

Please replace current claim 3 with the following:

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes registry conflict information.

Please replace current claim 4 with the following:

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes shortcut conflict information.

Please replace current claim 5 with the following:

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes driver conflict information.

Please replace current claim 6 with the following:

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes data source conflict information.

Please replace current claim 6 with the following:

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes service conflict information.

Please replace current claim 8 with the following:

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes device conflict information.

Please replace current claim 9 with the following:

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes Microsoft Windows Installer component conflict information.

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Please replace current claim 10 with the following:

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes autoexec.bat conflict information.

Please replace current claim 11 with the following:

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes config.sys conflict information.

Please replace current claim 12 with the following:

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes INI changes conflict information.

Please replace current claim 13 with the following:

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conflict information includes path conflict information.

Please replace current claim 14 with the following:

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of resolving any software conflicts includes the step of generating an installer based on the stored conflict information.

Please replace current claim 15 with the following:

15. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the tables has a conflict field for storing a conflict level indication therein.

Please replace current claim 16 with the following:

16. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein a program which executes the steps of:

receiving change information regarding actual changes made to files and other shared resources during installation of different applications into the computer system;

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processing the change information to determine conflict information pertaining to which files and shared resources conflict with one another;
storing the conflict information in a database; and
resolving any software conflicts based on the stored conflict information.

Please replace current claim 17 with the following:

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17. (Amended) The storage medium of claim 16, wherein the program further executes the step of generating an installer for the application.

Please replace current claim 18 with the following:

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18. (Twice Amended) A system for managing software conflicts, comprising:
means for receiving change information regarding actual changes made to a computer system's files and other shared resources during installation of different applications into the computer system;
means for processing the change information to determine conflict information pertaining to which files and shared resources conflict with one another;
a database for storing the conflict information; and
means for resolving the software conflicts based on the stored conflict information.

Please replace current claim 19 with the following:

19. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes DLL file conflict information.

Please replace current claim 20 with the following:

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20. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes registry conflict information.

Please replace current claim 21 with the following:

21. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes shortcut conflict information.

Please replace current claim 22 with the following:

22. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes driver conflict information.

Please replace current claim 23 with the following:

23. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes data source conflict information.

Please replace current claim 24 with the following:

24. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes service conflict information.

Please replace current claim 25 with the following:

25. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes device conflict information.

Please replace current claim 26 with the following:

26. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes Microsoft Windows Installer component conflict information.

Please replace current claim 27 with the following:

27. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes autoexec.bat conflict information.

Please replace current claim 28 with the following:

28. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes config.sys conflict information.

Please replace current claim 29 with the following:

29. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes INI changes conflict information.

Please replace current claim 30 with the following:

30. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the conflict information includes path conflict information.

Please replace current claim 31 with the following:

31. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the means for resolving includes means for generating an installer from the information stored in the database for the at least one application.

Please replace current claim 32 with the following:

32. (Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein at least one of the tables has a conflict field for storing a conflict level indicator therein.

Please add new claims 33-65 as follows:

33. A method of managing software conflicts in a computer system, comprising the steps of: receiving change information regarding actual changes made to files and other shared resources during installation of at least one application into the computer system;

processing the change information to determine conflict information pertaining to which files and shared resources conflict with one another, the conflict information including one of a plurality of different conflict severity values;

storing the conflict information in a database; and

resolving any software conflicts based on the stored conflict information.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the plurality of different conflict severity values comprises an informational value and an error value.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the error value indicates a more severe conflict than the

informational value.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein the plurality of different conflict severity values further comprises a warning value.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the error value indicates a more severe conflict than the warning value, and wherein the warning value indicates a more severe conflict than the informational value.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the database of tables includes a file conflict table having records only for files whose conflict value is either the warning value or the error value.

39. The method of claim 33 wherein, if two files have the same destination filename and destination directories, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if at least one of a version, an internal version, a date, a time and a size for the two files do not match.

40. The method of claim 33 wherein, if two files are 16-bit executables and have the same destination filename, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if at least one of a version, an internal version, a date, a time and a size for the two files do not match.

41. The method of claim 33 wherein, if two files have the same destination filename and destination directories, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if the two files have a version, an internal version, a date, a time and a size that match.

42. The method of claim 33, wherein, if two files are 16-bit executables and have the same destination filename, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if the two files have a version, an internal version, a date, a time and a size that match.

43. The method of claim 33 wherein, if two files are 16-bit executables and have the same destination filename, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if the destination directories for the two files do not match.

44. The method of claim 33 wherein, if two registry files have the same registry path and registry key names, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if at least one of a subset of characters of a text name of the registry key, a data type, and an operation for the two registry files do not match.

45. The method of claim 33 wherein, if two ODBC drivers have the same driver name and the same number of bits, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if an attribute exists for one of the two ODBC drivers and is non-existent for another of the two ODBC drivers.

46. The method of claim 33 wherein, if two ODBC drivers have the same driver name and same number of bits, the conflict severity value is derived by:

determining if an attribute for one of the two ODBC drivers has a different value than the attribute for another of the two ODBC drivers.

47. The method of claim 33, including at least three conflict severity values.

48. The method of claim 33, wherein the conflict severity value is derived by determining a respective conflict value for each conflict.

49. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of storing the conflict information comprises storing the conflict value in the database.

50. The method of claim 33, wherein the conflict severity values include a warning value and an error value.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the error value indicates a more severe conflict than the warning value.

52. The method of claim 33, wherein the plurality of different conflict severity values comprises an informational value, a warning value and an error value, wherein the error value indicates a more severe conflict than the warning value, and the warning value indicates a more severe conflict than the informational value, and

for each of two files having the same destination filename:

the conflict value is set to the warning value if destination directories for the two files match or the two files are 16-bit executables, and at least one of a version, an internal version, a date, a time and a size for the two files do not match;

the conflict value is set to the error value if the destination directories for the two files match or the two files are 16-bit executables, and the two files have a version, an internal version, a date, a time and a size which match; and

the conflict value is set to the informational value if the destination directories for the two files do not match and the two files are not 16-bit executables.

53. The method of claim 1, wherein two INI files conflict if they have the same path, section and entry.

54. The method of claim 1, wherein two configuration files conflict if they have the same command data and entry data.

55. The method of claim 1, wherein two shortcuts conflict if they have matching desktop-displayable human-readable text associated therewith, a matching location, and a matching icon group,

but have either an unmatched path that leads to a program executed by the shortcut, unmatched parameters passed to the program being launched from the shortcut, an unmatched directory within which the launched program is to startup, an unmatched icon number for a particular program, or an unmatched path and filename of a file containing a desktop-displayable icon associated with the shortcut.

56. The method of claim 1, wherein resources are determined to conflict based on installer component GUIDs.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein identical resources are determined to conflict if they have different component GUIDs.

58. The method of claim 1, further including the step of determining the change information.

59. The method of claim 1, wherein the database is in the form of interrelated tables.

60. The storage medium of claim 16, wherein the program is further operative to execute the step of determining the change information.

61. The storage medium of claim 16, wherein the database is in the form of interrelated tables.

62. The system of claim 18, further including means for determining the change information.

63. The system of claim 18, wherein the database is in the form of interrelated tables.

64. The method of claim 33, further including the step of determining the change information.

65. The method of claim 33, wherein the database is in the form of interrelated tables.